**Minutes ofordinary meeting of Kirkwhelpington Parish Council held at the Memorial Hall, Kirkwhelpington on Tuesday 3rd March 2020 commencing 730pm**

**Those Present:** R Thornton, (Chairman), E Rogerson, M Neale, P Senior, K Fortune, C Miller (Clerk), County Cllr J Riddle, one member of the public

**2020/16 Apologies for** Absence

A Purves

**2020/17 Declarations of Interest**

There were no Declarations of Interest.

**2020/18 Public questions**

Parishioner requested an update on Eastlands development, however no further information had been received from the County Council since the Parish Council had objected to the amendment to Section 106 agreement, minuted at the previous meeting, with application currently being reviewed by Development Control. It was reported several trees had been taken down and fence moved in connection to the development.

**2020/19 Minutes of previous meeting held Tuesday 7th January 2020**

It was resolved to accept the minutes of the previous meeting held on Tuesday 7th January 2020 as a true record.

**2020/20 Matters arising from previous meeting held Tuesday 7th January 2020**

* **Seat repair:** Nothing to report.
* **Play area/playing field fence:** Karbon Homes had confirmed they were not responsible for the fence repair, and it was resolved the Parish Council would make the structure safe.
* **Reflective posts:** Posts had been installed, with requests received for posts at bus shelter end of village. Matter to be placed on next agenda.
* **Garden waste service:** It had been advisedCounty Council would not introduce the scheme due to monetary reasons and households were advised to rely on composting.
* **B4RN rural broadband:** £150 connection fee was not reliant on investing £1500 into the company, but for connection into one’s property - person’s are required to register on B4RN web-site and claim the voucher, with B4RN then providing £150 for the connection fee. Additional people are still needed to sign up in order for 50% of the parish to have shown interest.
* **Flooding at Hollyburn and A696:** Further photographic evidence had been forwarded to County Council. It was believed sewers were blocked, however Northumbria Water had attended site and found the drain clear. It was resolved a site visit should be arranged with County and Parish Council. J Ridley confirmed he had reported the problem and would chase the matter up with County Council Officer G Harrison. Northumberland Estates had previously reported their tenant was to carry out works in clement weather to alleviate flooding at Hollyburn. Drains near to bus shelter require gulley sucking equipment due to a blockage.
* **Knowesgate traffic control:** Schemes had been implemented in 2009 and 2018 which had helped to reduce accidents, however given the concerns it may be possible to do something further this year which the County Council could work with the parish on.Drain at playing field working efficiently.
* **Dog fouling within the parish:** Problems still occurring, and offenders should be reported to the County Council dog warden.
* **Overhanging hedges:** A Purves not present, deferred until next meeting.
* **Pavement damage:** This was related to drainage problems.
* **Problems with speeding within the parish:** The problem had lessened since previous meeting.

**2020/21 Correspondence:**

CPRE newsletter

**2020/22 Finance**

**2020/22/01 Bank Balance**: £14622 as at 31/01/20

**2020/22/02 Accounts for authorisation:**

* M Neale – cement for posts - £19.00
* Kirkwhelpington Memorial Hall – W/C maintenance - £255.50; Annual grant - £500
* C Miller – January, February salary and expenses – £250.45
* HMRC - PAYE on above - £57.20

It was resolved to authorise payments.

**2020/23 Planning Matters**

**2020/23/01 Planning Applications received**

* 20/00005/FUL: Resubmission, change of use of Methodist Chapel, single storey extension, creation of two bedrooms – no objections

**2020/23/02 Ascendant at Cold Law – appeal to Planning Inspectorate**

Objection had been submitted to Planning Inspectorate by Parish Council to state the iconic value of the Wannies area was not acknowledged until objectors provided evidence; the monument would be three times the height of the Angel of the North and appears to be a vanity project; it would be permanent and once erected could not be removed; it would have a large carbon footprint; walkers, climbers and recreational users would be put off coming to the area; the supposed benefits to the tourism economy were exaggerated and not supported by evidence; if it surprisingly did attract a lot of tourists, problems of traffic, litter and damage to farming would occur; the wind turbines would be removed after 25 years and do not set any precedent for other tall structures.

**2020/24 Update on Ray Fell Wind Farm/Community Interest Company**

* Public meeting to be held Thursday 5th March at West Woodburn, with interaction between members of the public and the committee, comprising the subjects of Arts and children, Environment, Health and wellbeing, Transport, Community buildings and Farming.
* North Tyne Youth Group had been successful in their grant application for initial funding in order to carry out a youth feasibility study throughout the six parishes.
* Job advertisement for replacement CIC administrator being actioned.
* 10% of the parish had signed up to B4RN, with 50% required; person’s could invest up to £100K into the organisation.
* Funding to schools ongoing.

**2020/25 Review of Internal Auditor/internal controls; Asset Register; Risk Assessment and Insurance Policy**

The present internal auditor had agreed to be re-engaged for year ending 31/3/20; it was resolved the system of internal control was sufficient for the present needs of the Parish Council. It was resolved the Asset Register, with goalposts added, was an accurate record of the assets, subject to cash reserves being amended from £10K to £20K; it was resolved the Risk Assessment was sufficient for the present needs of the Parish Council. It was resolved to add the goalposts to the insurance policy.

**2020/26 Northumberland Association of Local Councils – Member Council Survey Anti-Social Behaviour and Petty Crime**

NALC were hoping to meet with Northumbria Police/Police Commissioner later in the year regarding anti-social behavior and petty crime, with Clerk to complete on-line survey prepared by NALC.

**2020/27 Urgent Business**

* Gardening machinery had been serviced last year, and gardener would be asked if servicing would be required this year.
* Gardener would be asked to provide a schedule for grasscutting works. Bank at Eastlands was not the responsibility of the Parish Council – Clerk to contact Kirkwhelpington Developments who had purchased the land from Northumberland Estates to ask if they would be maintaining the land.
* Further to drainage and fence works, the land near playing field going East was presenting a slip hazard, there had been steps which had been removed, and paving slabs would ease the problem. It was agreed contractor would be asked to provide a quotation.
* Part of fence at Eastlands now rickety, and not serving as a boundary any longer - it was agreed to gauge resident views on whether it should be removed.
* Tree to entrance to Meadowlands car park – debris was to be removed last year as it could impair visibility and contractor was still aware of the work.
* Weather conditions on A696 – there appeared to be a recent lack of snow clearance and a few mornings where a lack of gritters had caused lethal driving conditions. Cllr J Riddle reported gritters had been out at 4am last Monday morning and a Freedom of Information Request should be submitted to County Council to request gritting/snow clearance schedule. Clerk to request information regarding clearance/gritting works on A696 from Otterburn to Pontland on Monday 24th February 2020.
* Fence next to the Croft requires cleared and area grassed, with contractor previously quoting £400 for works.
* County Cllr reported budget meeting held in February with even Labour opposition supporting the proposals. A large amount of extra funds had gone into social care; £15million over two years had been secured for U&C road and pavement works; Inspection of Children’s Services had almost hit top marks, further to a bad review a few years ago. There is a huge capital programme, such as school building being actioned. £100million had been spent on roads which are still in a bad state due to recent heavy rainfall. Potholes can be filled in the parish and then require attention in the near future, however the current administration had acquired its own machinery, dangerous potholes have to be rectified within 24 hours, which is why they are often a temporary fix, with potholes on minor roads having to be fixed within 14 days. Resurfacing at Kirkharle crossroads is to be actioned through LTP, along with improvements to junctions, possibly at Knowesgate. The County Council had requested a public hearing regarding the Ascendant at Cold Law, and there had been a lot of public opposition. Local Plan adoption process ongoing.

**2020/28 Date of next Meeting**

The next meeting of Kirkwhelpington Parish Council will be held on Tuesday 5th May 2020 after the Annual Parish Meeting which commences at 7pm

 

Claire Miller, Parish Clerk

The meeting closed at 9pm.